

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during March 2007

As of April 1, Water Year 2007 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 65% of average to date; runoff, 60% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 110% for the date. On April 1, the statewide snow pack was about 40% of the April 1 average (the usual date of maximum accumulation). This is the smallest snowpack for April 1 since 1988 when the statewide snowpack was at 30 percent of the April 1 average. In general, seasonal precipitation during this water year has been below average, especially in Southern California. On March 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had a seasonal total of 31.3", which is about 75% of the seasonal average to date and about 63% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). During March 2007, the 8-Stations had only about 1.6" of precipitation or about 23% of the monthly average. This is the sixth driest March on record for the 8-Stations. The Water Year 2007 October through March seasonal total for the 8-Stations of 31.3" is 23rd driest out of 88 years of record. Precipitation statewide during March was about 25% of average, ranging from about 45% in the Tulare Lake Region to about 10% in the Central and South Coasts. March was also usually warm, causing significant early snowmelt at low elevations. Fortunately, the last few water years had above average precipitation and runoff, so ground water levels are near normal values and reservoir storage is above average. Many of the large water supply reservoirs in the foothills of the Central Valley are near flood control levels and cannot store additional water.

Summary of Water Conditions in California, April 1, 2007 (percent of average)

Hydrologic Region	Precip Oct 1- date	Snow Water Content	Reservoir Storage 31-Mar	Oct 1- date	Runoff Apr thru Jul Forecast	Water Year Forecast
North Coast	80	45	105	65	45	60
San Francisco Bay	70	--	90	30	--	--
Central Coast	50	--	110	15	--	--
South Coast	30	--	90	25	--	--
Sacramento River	65	35	110	60	50	55
San Joaquin River	65	45	115	50	45	45
Tulare Lake	55	35	105	50	40	40
North Lahontan	55	40	135	75	40	50
South Lahontan	30	25	110	90	50	50
Colorado River	10	--	--	--	--	--
Statewide	65	40	110	60	45	50
		Last Year, Statewide				
April 1, 2006	130	125	115	155	130	140

The projected median April-July unimpaired snowmelt runoff for the State's major water supply basins now ranges from 67% (Shasta Lake Inflow) to 31% (Tule River). Basins from the Merced River southward are expected to receive 45% or less of an average April-July runoff. Runoff in the Tulare Lake Region is likely to be similar to the amounts during the 1987-1992 drought. Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through March 31 was about 6.6 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 58% of average. (On March 31, 2006, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 18.0 MAF or about 160% of average.) The median unimpaired runoff Sacramento River Index (4 River) forecast fell from about 12.1 MAF (65% of average) on March 1 to about 10.5 MAF (56% of average) on April 1. The median forecasts of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes have fallen to "Dry" and "Critical," respectively.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 04/01/2007 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	31.44	95	53.48	162	82
Redding	19.01	66	38.00	132	56
Sacramento	10.10	56	21.51	120	50
San Jose	8.24	61	17.58	129	54
Fresno	5.49	55	10.98	111	48
Bakersfield	2.55	45	4.69	82	39
Los Angeles	2.47	18	10.40	74	16
San Diego	3.39	35	3.77	39	31

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 04/01/2007 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,031	1,963	103	2,448	83	---	417
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	4,010	3,747	107	4,552	88	-542	542
Lake Oroville	Feather	3,127	2,761	113	3,538	88	-16	411
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	810	697	116	966	84	10	156
Folsom Lake	American	693	629	110	977	71	49	284
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,976	1,486	133	2,420	82	-69	444
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,641	1,473	111	2,030	81	-49	389
Lake McClure	Merced	659	566	116	1,025	64	-80	366
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	249	360	69	520	48	-179	271
Pine Flat Res	Kings	562	561	100	1,000	56	-353	438
Isabella	Kern	226	195	116	568	40	-189	342
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,788	1,875	95	2,039	88	---	251

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 90-Day long-range seasonal weather outlook (for April through June), issued March 15, suggests below average precipitation for Central and Southern California and some adjoining portions of the American Southwest. Northern California is forecast to have average rainfall. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for the Sierra and the eastern half of the State and below normal for the South Coast, with average temperatures elsewhere. The latest CPC long-range weather for April, issued March 31, also suggests below average precipitation for Central and Southern California and much of the adjoining portions of the American Southwest. Average precipitation is forecast for Northern California. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for almost all of the American West, except the coastal region of Southern California where temperatures are forecast to be near average.